

Message Text

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P 232232Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM

CG CAMP PENDLETON CAL

CG FORT CHAFFEE ARK

EGLIN AFB FLA

INDIANTOWN GAP MIL RES

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FOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 5311 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GENEVA 13 JUNE.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 05311

WISNER SENDS IATF - TAFT:

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, BE, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR BELGIUM

1. WISNER DISCUSSED ON JUNE 13 WITH REPRESENTATIVES BELGIAN
MINISTERIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE AS WELL AS ICEM
DIRECTOR GOB POLICY TOWARDS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

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2. GOB IS WILLING TO PERMIT SOME 2,000 VIETNAMESE, PRINCIPALLY

STUDENTS, CURRENTLY IN BELGIUM TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY IF THEY SO DESIRE. IN ADDITION WITHOUT NUMERICAL LIMITATION GOB WILL PERMIT SPOUSES, CHILDREN AND PARENTS OF BELGIAN CITIZENS OR EC CITIZENS RESIDENT IN BELGIUM TO COME TO BELGIUM. VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS OF BELGIUM MAY BRING SPOUSES AND MINOR CHILDREN TO BELGIUM. NEITHER CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE GOB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

3. AS AN INITIAL QUOTA GOB WILL PERMIT 75 RELATIVES IN EXTENDED FAMILIES TO COME TO BELGIUM. THE GOB'S OFFICIAL PROGRAM, HOWEVER, IS LIMITED PRESENTLY TO 75 AND GOB WILL ASSUME THEIR TRANSPORTATION AND RESETTLEMENT COSTS. AS A RESULT CONVERSATIONS WITH WISNER, MINISTRY OFFICIALS AGREED TO LAUNCH OFFICIAL PROGRAM AFTER DISCUSSION WITH CATHOLIC WELFARE GROUPS ON OR ABOUT JULY 1 INSTEAD OF SEPTEMBER 1. THEY ASSURED WISNER GOB WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXTEND NUMERICAL CATEGORIES ONCE THEY HAVE ASSESSED PROGRESS IN THE FIRST PHASE.

4. BELGIAN OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD TRY TO DRAW FIRST REFUGEES UNDER THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM FROM HONG KONG. MOVEMENT OF THESE AND ANY TAKEN FROM THE AMERICAN SYSTEM WILL BE ARRANGED THROUGH ICEM.

5. APPROVED VISAS FOR THE TWO NUMERICALLY LIMITED CATEGORIES WILL BE SENT TO THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG. IF THE REFUGEES ARE IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM THE EMBASSY WILL CONTACT THE IATF TO ASCERTAIN LOCATION BY CENTER OF VISA RECIPIENTS.

6. ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS ONLY, GOB WILLING TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR FUTURE ARRIVALS. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR WILL BE QUERIED FOR SKILLS NEEDED IN BELGIAN LABOR MARKET. REQUIREMENTS WILL BE SENT VIA THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS OR THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

7. LOCAL ICEM DIRECTOR ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF US INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO FUNDING TRAVEL OF INDIGENT RELATIVES WISHING TO REJOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN BELGIUM. WISNER ASSURED ICEM DIRECTOR IATF HAVE CONSIDERED FUNDING TRAVEL OF INDIGENT RELATIVES FOR PURPOSES OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION. REQUEST YOU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFIRM WISNER'S UNDERSTANDING AND SEND INFORMATION TO JOHN THOMAS IN GENEVA FOR DISSEMINATION TO HIS NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. FIRESTONE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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